

Week 2: Application Assignment

Evaluating Campus Technology & Websites

Submit by the end of Week 2.

Name, grade level,
and subject taught:

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Date: 1/19/09

The Texas Campus STaR Chart was developed around the four key domains of the Texas Long-Range Plan for Technology, 2006-2020: Teaching and Learning; Educator Preparation and Development; Leadership, Administration, and Instructional Support; and Infrastructure for Technology. The STaR Chart is designed to help campuses determine their progress toward meeting both Long-Range Plan and district goals.

In the Week 1 Analysis assignment, you summarized the Long-Range Plan and the Technology Applications TEKS and completed a self-assessment of the requisite skills that you need to implement the TEKS.


In this week's School-Based Application, you will look at the strengths and weaknesses of your campus as you examine and apply data from the Texas Campus STaR Chart, a technology data-gathering tool provided by the state. You will complete a three-year comparison of Texas Campus STaR Chart data from your campus with statewide summary data. Like the resources you utilized in your Analysis assignment, the STaR chart will prove useful as you become an instructional leader. You will also evaluate two websites and practice using a web 2.0 tool to reflect on your learning.

Performance Outcomes

- Use data to assess the current technology status of your campus.

Rubric

Use this rubric to guide your work on the Application Assignment.

Tasks 	Accomplished 10 The evidence suggests that this work is a "habit of mind." The educator is ready to mentor others in this area.	Proficient 8 The evidence suggests that performance on this work matches that of a strong educator.	Needs Improvement 6 The evidence does not yet make the case for the educator being proficient at this task.
Week 2 Application: Evaluating Campus Technology and Websites Use data to assess the current technology status of your campus.	Demonstrates a clear understanding of how to use the Texas Campus STaR Chart to analyze the current technology status of a campus. Responses show relevance to content of course. No errors in grammar, spelling, or punctuation.	Demonstrates some understanding of how to use the Texas Campus STaR Chart to analyze the current technology status of a campus. Responses show some relevance to content of course. Few errors in grammar, spelling or punctuation.	Does not demonstrate understanding of how to use the Texas Campus STaR Chart to analyze the current technology status of a campus. Responses do not show relevance to course content. Responses lack clarity and depth and/or multiple errors in grammar, spelling or punctuation.

Week 2 Application

Part 1: What Is the Current Technology Status of Your Campus?

State law mandates that the Texas Campus STaR Chart be used to evaluate a campus' progress toward meeting the goals of the Long-Range Plan for Technology. The chart can also be used for technology planning, budgeting for resources, and evaluation of progress in local technology projects.

Directions:

- Access the Texas Campus STaR Chart by entering the following address in your web address bar: <http://starchart.esc12.net/>
- Click on "Texas Campus STaR Chart," and read the article to review STaR Chart scoring.
- Click on "Statewide Summary Data." Click on 2006-2007 Summary Statistics. Print out Statewide Data Summary.
- Click "Campus Data Search." Choose the year from the drop-down box. Then type in the name of your selected district without ISD. For example, for Beaumont ISD, you would only type in Beaumont. Do not type in a campus. Click "Simple Search." A list of campuses in your district will appear.
- Click on your selected campus, and the STaR chart will appear.
- Print out the most current three years of STaR Charts for your selected campus.
- Analyze the data, and answer the questions in an appropriate document. Submit through Blackboard.

Campus STaR Chart Data Analysis

School District: Hardin-Jefferson								
Campus: High School								
Summary Area	Key Area Total			Key Area STaR Classification			Positive Trends	Negative Trends
	07-08	06-07	05-06	07-08	06-07	05-06		
Teaching & Learning	13	13	12	D	D	D	The rating is steady.	The rating does not show progress.
Educator Preparation & Development	12	13	16	D	D	A	We do show the ability to have better prepared teachers.	Decrease in preparedness means either new teachers or the need for more training.
Leadership, Administration, & Instructional Support	16	17	12	A	A	D	Overall growth is positive. This will help to boost staff in the right direction.	

Infrastructure for Technology	14	13	10	D	D	D	Improvement is being shown.	Growth in this area is too slow to keep up with our desired progress.
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What did the STaR Chart show as your campus' greatest strength? Do you agree with the results? Explain.

Leadership, administration and instructional support is the greatest strength for my campus. The campus invested in a dedicated person to assist teachers and ensure technology use progress. I think they have done a great job getting our campus going with more technology advancement.

What did the STaR Chart show as your campus' greatest weakness? Do you agree with the results? Explain.

Infrastructure for technology is our greatest weakness. I definitely agree with this. While we are beginning to advance and invest in more up to date equipment we have computers that are at least four years old, band width problems and servers that cannot accommodate services like Moodle.

In an online learning community interaction, which STaR Chart area would you choose to introduce to the other members? What data supports your choice?

I think Leadership, Administration and Instructional Support would be what I choose to interact in an online learning community. This is an area we have come a long way in and I would feel comfortable discussing it. Our leadership still needs to understand that the goals they want can only be reached by allowing more access to technology. I feel strongly about the topic and it would be an enjoyable interaction that would allow for additional input and recommendations.

Week 2 Application

Part 2: Website Evaluation

As an instructional leader, you must be able to locate and evaluate electronic information for accuracy and validity. You must also be able to talk confidently about the process to those you lead. Throughout this Application, you will expand your knowledge and practice using technology tools. In Part 2 of the Application assignment, you will use a rubric to evaluate websites and create a blog to reflect on the evaluation process.

Directions

- Review your area of weakness identified in the Technology Applications Inventory you completed in Project 1. Also review the area of campus weakness identified in this Project's STaR Chart analysis.
- Locate two websites—one that addresses your personal area of weakness and the other that addresses the area of campus weakness.
- Evaluate the websites using the Website Evaluation Rubric below. Rate each website characteristic from 0-4 with 4 points being the highest rating and 0 being the lowest. Total the points, and use this scale to rate the website overall

Scale: Excellent: 96-90 Good: 89-80 Fair: 79-70 Poor: Below 70

Website Evaluation #1

Web Page Title: NAEP Problem Solving in Technology-Rich Environments: Executive Summary	
URL: http://nces.ed.gov/nationsreportcard/pubs/studies/2007466.asp	
Focus: Technology rich environment problem solving report.	
Navigation & Design	
1. Easily navigable	3
2. Clearly labeled, working links	4
3. Easy page-to-page movement	3
4. Interactive with question capability	0
5. Appropriate page format	3
6. Easily located information	3
7. Visually appealing (good use of color and graphics)	4
8. Loads quickly	4
Content	
9. Proper title(s)	4
10. Correct, current information	4
11. Additional resource links	4
12. Clearly stated purpose(s)	3
13. Content that challenges reflection and discussion	4

Appropriateness	
14. Useful for research	4
15. Audience appropriate	4
16. Appropriate vocabulary	4
17. Related to professional/student objectives	4
Authenticity	
18. Contact/ author's name	4
19. Contact/author's email address	0
20. Website host's name	4
21. Date of creation	4
22. Updated information	4
23. Reliability	4
24. Validity	4
Total Points (Is this page a reliable, valid source of information?)	83

Website Evaluation #2

Web Page Title: EDTECH: Focus On K-12 – Technology Infrastructure	
URL: http://www.edtechmag.com/k12/issues/winter-2005/technology-infrastructure.html	
Focus: The importance of creating and maintaining an up-to-date technology structure in education.	
Navigation & Design	
1. Easily navigable	4
2. Clearly labeled, working links	4
3. Easy page-to-page movement	4
4. Interactive with question capability	0
5. Appropriate page format	3
6. Easily located information	3
7. Visually appealing (good use of color and graphics)	4
8. Loads quickly	4
Content	
9. Proper title(s)	4
10. Correct, up-to-date information	4
11. Additional resource links	4
12. Clearly stated purpose(s)	3
13. Content that challenges reflection and discussion	4
Appropriateness	
14. Useful for research	4
15. Audience appropriate	4
16. Appropriate vocabulary	4

17. Related to professional/student objectives	4
Authenticity	
18. Contact/ author's name	3
19. Contact/author's email address	1
20. Website host's name	4
21. Date of creation	4
22. Updated information	3
23. Reliability	4
24. Validity	4
Total Points (Is this page a reliable valid source of information?)	84

Week 2 Application

Part 2: Creating and Using a Blog

Creating a Blog

Directions:

- Access the video, “Blogs in Plain English” by entering the following address in your web address bar: <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=NN2I1pWXjXI>
- View “Blogs in Plain English” as preparation for this assignment.
- Enter the following address in your web address bar: www.blogger.com (if you do not have a blog), or use a blog you already have set up.
- Read the information about the site.
- Click “Create Your Blog Now.” Complete the information required to use the site, including the selection of a username and password. Click “Continue” to move to the next step.
- Record your information in an appropriate document and submit via Blackboard. If you had previously registered for a blog, please record that information. .

Website Name and Address	Website’s Purpose	My Username	My Password	My URL
Blogger www.blogger.com	To create and share information using blogs. (Writings to comment on others information and to share information .)	I di dn 't thi		

Using a Blog

Directions:

- After creating your blog account, click “Name Blog.”
- Select a title for the blog (example: Website Evaluation or something more creative) and a blog address URL (example: <http://yourname.blogspot.com>). Click “Continue” to move to the next step, “Choose a Template.”
- Click to choose a template for your blog, then click “Continue.”
- When the “Your Blog Has Been Created” screen appears, click “Start Blogging.”
- On the screen provided, compose a 250-word opinion piece on one of the websites that you evaluated. Include:
 - Description of the website
 - Positives

- Negatives
- The website's value to 21st century, information-age education
- Your recommendation of the website to other educators
- Provide the link to your blog in an email to your academic coach including what you see as the value of blogs to 21st century learners. As an instructional leader, how can you use blogging to communicate information to school stakeholders.